DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Amy Kwan on 07/28/2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

3. Claims 14-16 and 18-20 have been canceled.

4. Claim 1. A computer implemented method for collaboratively executing an application, comprising:

establishing a communication from a first computing object to an intermediary system wherein the intermediary multicasts messages among the first computing object and a plurality of other computing objects in communication with the intermediary wherein the first computing object and the plurality of other computing objects can communicate text messages wherein the computing objects have computing memory communicatively coupled to a processor;

transmitting a message by way of the established communication indicative of an invitation to collaboratively execute an application from the first computing object to the

intermediary system whereby the message is multicast to the plurality of other computing objects and wherein each of the plurality of other computing objects launches a first application;

receiving a message indicative of acceptance at the first computing object from at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects;

receiving a network address of the at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects that sent a message indicative of acceptance whereby the first computing object transmits actions related to the first application to the at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects to communicate actions performed on the application locally bypassing the intermediary and wherein the communication session is maintained with the intermediary for multicasting text messages among the first computing object and the plurality of other computing objects;

launching the first application locally, wherein the act of launching the first application comprises both transmitting a parameter indicative of an identifier of a process of the first application and receiving a pointer to an application session of which the first application is associated.

5. Claim 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicative of an invitation comprises the term "invite".

6. Claim 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first computing object is executing on a first computer and wherein the other ones of the computing objects is executing on at least one other computer.

7. Claim 4. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising registering a first copy of the application with the first computing object.

8. Claim 5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a first copy of the application and the first object are executable on a first computer.

9. Claim 6. The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising transmitting a message from the first computer indicative of connection-specific information to the at least ones of the plurality of other computing objects.

10. Claim 7. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the connection-specific information comprises an internet protocol address.

11. Claim 8. The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising launching a second application on a second computer.

12. Claim 9. The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second application and the first application comprise compatible functions.

13. Claim 10. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the second application is the same application as the first application.

14. Claim 11. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising transmitting a second message to another computing object that joined the communication with the intermediary, the second message indicative of an invitation to collaboratively execute the application.

15. Claim 12. The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the another computing object joined the communication with the intermediary after the first message was transmitted.

16. Claim 13. The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the transmission of the second message is by one of the plurality of other computing objects.

17. Claim 17. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions for carrying out the acts recited in claim 11.

18. Claim 21. A system for collaborative application execution, comprising:

a first computer comprising intermediary computer readable instructions for multicasting messages among a plurality of computing objects;

at least one of the plurality of computing object in communication with the intermediary computer-readable instructions and comprising a plurality of computer-readable instructions for real-time communication with other computing objects by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions; and

at least one of the plurality of computing objects comprising computer readable instructions for inviting computing objects by way of real-time communication to collaboratively execute a computer application by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions

at least one of the plurality of computing readable instructions for communicating directly with a network address of at least one other computing device simultaneously

executing the collaborative application to which actions are transmitted related to the collaborative application bypassing the first computer and wherein the real-time communications not related to actions in on the collaborative application continue to use the computer-readable instructions multicasting text messages with other computing objects by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions.

19. Claim 22. The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the first computer comprises a roster of users that have communicated their presence through a computing object to the intermediary instructions.

20. Claim 23. The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the first computer maintains a session indicative of users that have joined in a real-time communication.

21. Claim 24. The system as recited in claim 22 further comprising an application session that maintains a roster of users that are collaboratively executing an application.

22. Claim 25. The system as recited in claim 24 where each user causes a copy of the application to be executed on a separate computer from each other user.

23. Claim 26. An instant messaging service comprising the intermediary computer-readable instructions as recited in claim 21.

Reasons for Allowance

24. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

25. Claims 1 and 21 are allowed.

Prior art singly or in combination fails to teach claim limitation, among other things, the combination of "transmitting a message by way of the established communication indicative of an invitation to collaboratively execute an application from the first computing object to the intermediary system whereby the message is multicast to the plurality of other computing objects and wherein each of the plurality of other computing objects launches a first application" or "receiving a message indicative of acceptance at the first computing object from at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects" and "receiving a network address of the at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects that sent a message indicative of acceptance whereby the first computing object transmits actions related to the first application to the at least a subset of the plurality of other computing objects to communicate actions performed on the application locally bypassing the intermediary and wherein the communication session is maintained with the intermediary for multicasting text messages among the first computing object and the plurality of other computing objects".

26. Claims 2-13, 17 and 22-26 are dependent from base claims 1 and 21 which further limits the parent claims and therefore are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments of Reasons for allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAUQIR HUSSAIN whose telephone number is (571)270-1247. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571 272 3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452